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¹ OJ L 79, 24.3.2005, p. 1.



1. Table of Contents

1. TABLE OF CONTENTS 2

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES..... 3

3. THE CONSORTIUM AND THE NETWORK 4

4. MAJOR PROJECT RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS..... 7

5. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES 8

6. IMPACT AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES..... 13

7. FURTHER INFORMATION 19



2. Project Objectives

Language Technologies (LT), together with their backbone, Language Resources (LR), provide an essential support to the challenge of Multilingualism and ICT of the future. The main task of language technologies is to bridge language barriers and to help creating a new environment where information flows smoothly across frontiers and languages, no matter the country, and the language, of origin.

To achieve this, we need to act as a community able to join forces on a set of shared priorities.

Currently, however, the field of LR&Ts suffers from an excess of individuality and fragmentation: there is no substantial sharing of what are the priorities for the field, where to move, not to mention a common timeframe.

This lack of coherent directions is partially also reflected by the difficulty with which fundamental information about LR&Ts is reachable: basically, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to get a clear picture of the current situation of the field in simple terms such as who are the main actors, what are the available development and deployment methods, what are the “best” language resources, what are the areas for which further development and investment would be most necessary, etc. Substantial information is not easily reachable not only for the producers but also for policy makers and funding agencies.

The field is active, but it needs coherence. Of course, coherence will better be assured by sharing common priorities and endeavours. Under this respect, since some time large groups have been advocating the need of a LR&T infrastructure, which is increasingly recognised as a necessary step for building on each other achievements, integrating resources and technologies and avoiding dispersed or conflicting efforts. An large range of LRs and LTs is there, but the infrastructure that puts LR&Ts together and sustains them is still largely missing; interoperability of resources, tools, and frameworks has recently come to be understood as perhaps the most pressing current need for language processing research. Infrastructure building is thus indicated by many as the most urgent issue and a way to make the field move forward. Time is ripe for going beyond individual research interests and recognise the infrastructural nature of LRs by establishing an Open Resource Infrastructure (ORI). This will allow easy sharing of data, corpora, language resources and tools that are made interoperable and work seamlessly together, as well as networking of language technology researchers, professionals, users. As a response to the community needs, FP7 Call 4 foresaw a Network of Excellence addressing such an infrastructure: the ORI will be implemented by the T4ME Net (Technologies for the Multilingual European Information Society) consortium.

FLaReNet – Fostering Language Resources Network – aims at developing the needed common vision and fostering a European strategy for consolidating the sector, thus enhancing competitiveness at EU level and worldwide. It establishes itself as **an international Forum**, composed by an enlarging community, whose goals are:

- **to facilitate interaction** among LR&T stakeholders and ultimately re-build a community around LR and LTs;
- **to promote and sustain international cooperation;**



- to coordinate a community-wide effort to **analyse the sector** of LR&Ts along all the relevant dimensions: technical and scientific, but also organisational, economic, political and legal;
- to **identify** short, medium, and long-term **strategic objectives** and **provide consensual recommendations** in the form of a plan of action targeted to a broad range of stakeholders, from the industrial and scientific community to funding agencies and policy makers;
- to **pave the way to the set up** and functioning of an **Open Resource Infrastructure** through a number of preparatory initiatives that must be continued and strengthened during the establishment and the life of the ORI.

3. The Consortium and the Network

FLaReNet is bringing together leading experts of research institutions, academies, companies, consortia, associations, funding agencies, public and private bodies both at European and international level. This way, we ensure that both LR producers and users are represented and actively involved, in addition to technology developers. And in turn, broad participation of different key-figures and experts in the WGs will ensure that recommendations are formulated through a consensual bottom-up process in which the relevant scientific, technical, organisational, strategic aspects and positions are taken into account.

The FLaReNet Consortium was originally composed by 38 Institutions, representing the FLaReNet partners (27 beneficiaries and 11 non-funded members). They were complemented by a Support Group composed mainly by companies (25 members).

One of the FLaReNet mandates – and a measure for its success – is the progressive enlargement to new members. This enlargement was originally conceived as an iterative process gradually promoting members of the Supporters set into the Members group.

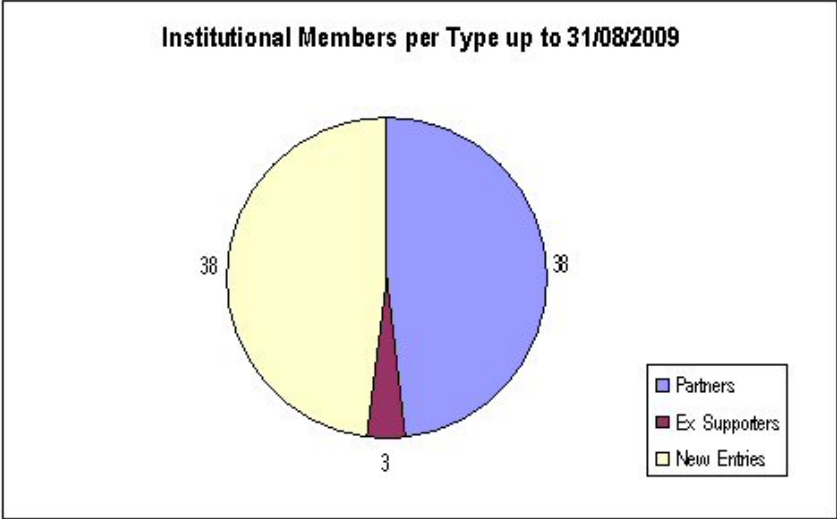
A more significant distinction in membership was then introduced by the Steering Committee between *Institutional Members (IM)* and *Individual Subscribers (IS)*. People who join the Network on the FLaReNet website become Individual Subscribers. The Steering Committee, then, reserves the right to ask for an official involvement of individuals' Institutions. Those institutions agreeing to it become Institutional Members of the Network. This distinction in membership represents two different degrees of involvement. Individual subscribers are expected to contribute to the discussion over major themes, get early access to emerging recommendations and provide feedback over FLaReNet reports. Institutional members are expected to provide significant input and advice about major themes of relevance, to make proposals about topics deserving special workshops to be discussed, and in particular to endorse FLaReNet recommendations and disseminate them in their respective communities.

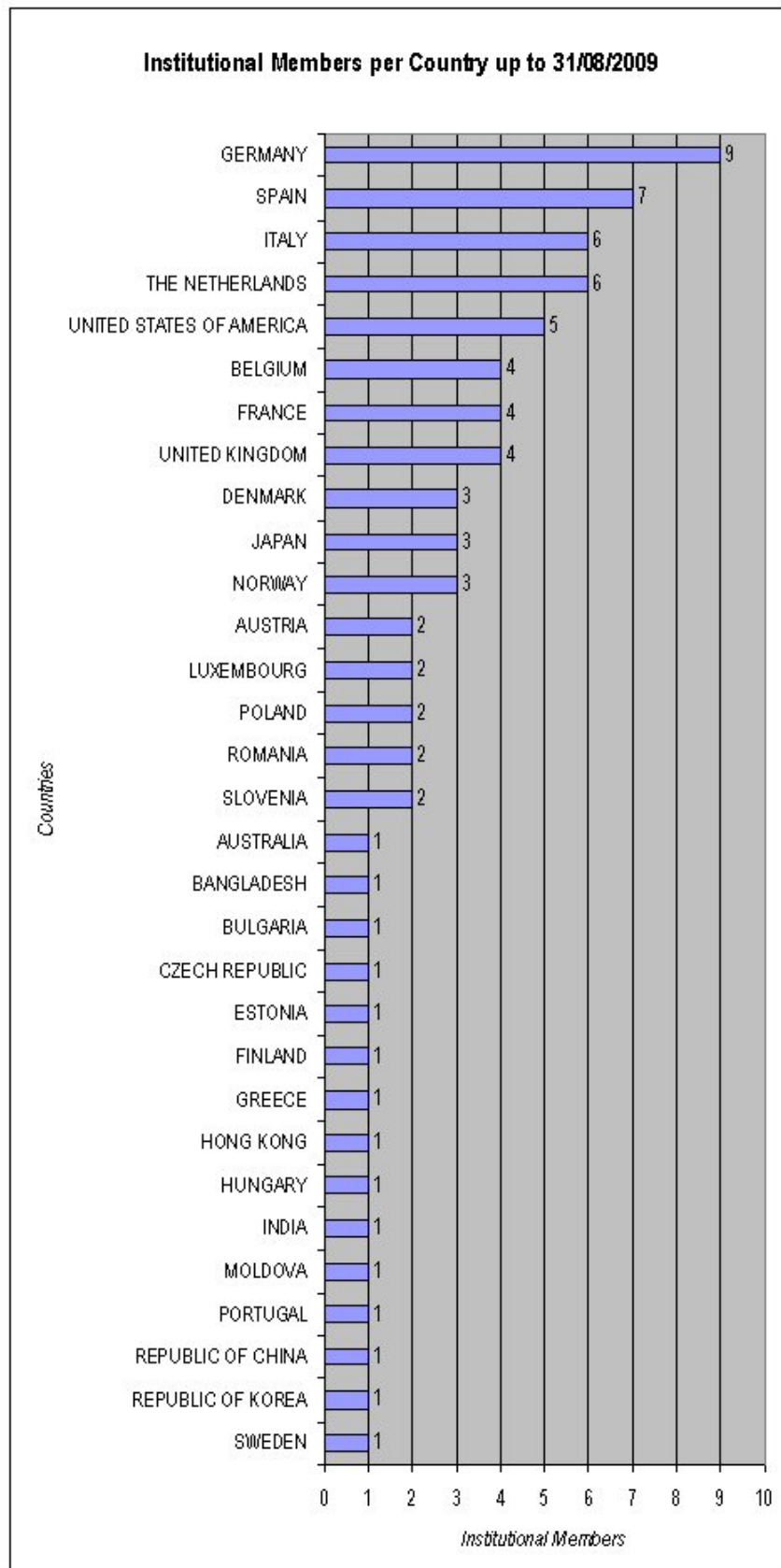
In the first year, several new colleagues have joined as Individual Subscribers, and Institutional Membership has increased in parallel. The recruiting campaign targeted both EU and non-EU people: the FLaReNet community at the end of the first year counts 217 individual subscribers and 79 institutional members from 31 different countries, thus doubling the original size of the Network at the institutional level.

The more represented countries in the Network belong to the European Union (with Germany, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands in pole position), but the international



dimension of FLaReNet is well testified by members in the United States, Japan, Australia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, the Republic of China and the Republic of Korea.







4. Major Project Results and Achievements

FLaReNet final outcomes are essentially **of directive nature**: to **help the EC**, and national funding agencies, **identifying priority areas** of LRs and LT that need public funding to develop or improve. However, these final results need the achievement of a number of intermediate steps in order to be attained. A clear and coherent roadmap presupposes the commitment of a strong and cohesive group of people that has a common view of the field; the availability of map of Language Resources and Technologies, under many different respects: the methods and models for production, use, validation, evaluation, distribution of LRs and LTs, their sharing and interoperability; different types and modalities of LRs, the applications and products for LR&Ts; the advantages and limitations of standardisation; the different needs and priorities of academy vs. industry and commerce, of data providers vs. users; the traditional and new areas of interest for LRs; the cultural, economic, societal, political issues, etc.

Therefore, the first year of activity has been mainly devoted to:

- a) create and strengthen the FLaReNet community;
- b) formulate strategies and recommendations for the sector of LR&T;
- c) broadly survey the sector of LR&Ts, in particular for the areas of standardisation needs and requirements, new methods for automatic acquisition and repurposing of LRs, evaluation and validation methodologies, campaigns and services, and existing language resources and current status of HLT market;
- d) define and implement communication and dissemination strategies to consolidate the FLaReNet “brand”.

As a result of the above activities, FLaReNet has now:

- **a wide and solid community**, composed by 217 Individual Members and 79 Institutional Members from 31 different countries;
- **two sets of recommendations**, the first issued after the FLaReNet Launching Event (“First FLaReNet Forum Highlights”), and the other coming from a consultation of the community. The latter, the “*Blueprint for Actions and Infrastructures*” (D8.2a) gathers the recommendations collected around the many meetings, panels and consultations of the community (see below, Dissemination Activities), as well as the results of the surveying activities carried out under FLaReNet workpackages. The Blueprint encompasses a preliminary Plan for Actions and Infrastructures targeted at HLT players at large, policy-makers and funding agencies;
- **a recognised “brand”**: the FLaReNet brand is already accepted and well known after one year of activities. Collaboration with FLaReNet is continuously being sought by other projects and initiatives and requests for endorsement and support are being received;
- **three surveys** of broad areas of the sector of LR&Ts at large have been completed (feeding into D2.1a, D4.1 and D6.1a), another is being finalised;
- **a considerable burst of activities** and signs of renewed interest around LRs at this moment: if FLaReNet cannot be held entirely responsible for this change of attitude, surely it is one of the catalysts.



Most importantly, FLaReNet has truly become a *community of experts* that – by acting as an aggregator and facilitator of information sharing and discussion – aims to become the *first scientific social network* in the field of LR&Ts.

The institutional duty of FLaReNet is the development of recommendations for the EC. In doing so, FLaReNet asks for the contribution of the entire community, by means of a continuous direct consultation of key players and stakeholders. ***Discussion and consensus building are thus at the very core*** of the network activities, and the wiki discussion spaces of the FLaReNet website host several threads on different topics that are of relevance at a given time. Usually, these topics as those mostly discussed/debated during FLaReNet events and they are afterwards opened to the entire community to raise comments both from people that attended the event and from those who could not attend. Discussion will be elicited on the deliverables published by FLaReNet, since it was established as a policy to make the deliverables open to further comments and modification from the entire community, in an attempt to make them ***“living documents”*** that get updated as the work progresses.

5. Summary of Activities

In this chapter we briefly summarize the main activities carried out in the first year, organized around major themes.

Creation and strengthening of the FLaReNet community

The Vienna Forum

The most important community-building event in 2009 was the **FLaReNet Launching Event**, which was organised in Vienna, 11-12 February 2009. The “European Language Resources and Technologies Forum: Shaping the Future of the Multilingual Digital Europe” was a collaborative workshop composed of a series of thematic working sessions on specific topics. The intention was to approach each topic trying to identify controversial aspects, risks, missing elements, gaps to be filled, what can/cannot be achieved. The meeting was conceived as a means for raising discussions in an interactive and creative way, thus stimulating open questions, new ideas, and visions for the field towards a multilingual digital Europe. A set of questions/issues have been prepared and spread to the participants under the form of both open questions and of “hot topics” to be discussed at the Forum.

In preparation of the Vienna Event, FLaReNet compiled lists of experts and contacted them for ensuring their commitment to participate in the activities of the WGs, starting with the Launching Event: the aim is to create *think-tanks of experts* involved in the various FLaReNet activities.

To ensure cooperation and alignment with projects and initiatives outside the EU, as well as to set up a scenario for discussion future policies and priorities for the field of Language Resources and Technologies in a worldwide context, an *International Round Table* was organised in conjunction with the Vienna Forum, with non-European participants.

The Vienna Workshop and its thematic sessions have been very successful and demonstrated a great interest for a discussion on the current state and future progress of LR&Ts.



The wiki

In order to stimulate the community discussion and to take up interesting issues after the events, a collaborative Web site devoted to the project has been designed and realised – including wiki working spaces reserved to the Coordination Group, the Steering Committee and each of the Working Groups.

Recruiting campaign

In order to constantly increase the people involved in FLaReNet, as well as to ensure their commitment to the objectives of the Network, an active permanent **recruiting campaign** is always open. People wishing to join the Network can do so by filling an appropriate web form available on the FLaReNet web site. The FLaReNet Network is open to participation by public and private, research and industrial organizations. Invitation to join, either personal or by means of mailing lists are used in order to enlarge the members as much as possible.

Meetings

Meetings, either thematic or general ones, are the primary means for attracting new members and to reinforce participation of existing ones, but participation is expected and encouraged also by means of online discussions, forum threads, and collaborative documents.

Other communication means

Communication flows (mailing lists, policies about regular updates of the network about project events; planning of a periodic newsletter); were designed and implemented so as to ensure smooth communication inside the FLaReNet community.

Apart from actions for enlarging the FLaReNet community, those aimed at **consolidating** it are especially important. Participants to the community need to feel they belong to a group of people that is actually shaping the field of Language Resources and Technologies by delineating its direction for the next future. The User Forum, the creation of Thematic Group and “think-tanks” of experts and the launch of closed meetings are the privileged ways for creating close and connected groups of people.

Formulation of strategies and recommendations for the sector of Language Resources and Technologies

Activities belonging to this category broadly share a common workflow: meetings and events are the privileged places where important issues emerge from the community. These issues are broadly discussed, both at the events themselves and through on-line discussion. The Steering and Coordination Committees then perform a distillation of the major topics, also on the basis (but not limiting to) of the FLaReNet plan of activities. Finally, the topics distilled are delivered to the community and to the EC under the form of recommendations.

To date, FLaReNet recommendations were issued in two phases: a) recommendations from the Vienna Event and b) the first Blueprint of Actions and Infrastructures (D8.2a).

An extensive effort was devoted to anticipate the provision of recommendations to the EC so as to, on the one hand, come up with a concise and effective report about the Vienna event, and on the other, produce a preliminary shot on the status of the field of language resources and technologies. A report was prepared that provides a first picture



of the players, models and best practices in LR&Ts, together with the identification of major issues and tendencies in the field.

Survey activities

Extensive effort was dedicated – within the various Workpackages – to the preparation of surveys in different areas related to LR&Ts.

A survey on existing language resources and current status of HLT market, mostly from player profile perspective. This survey, which resulted in D2.1, tried to focus on some of the major features that would help understand all issues related to LRs from descriptive metadata to usability in key application, to the composition of various BLARKs for important technologies, to the legal/ethical/privacy issues, etc.

Regarding the inventory of existing resources, the project has decided to join forces with ELRA and LREC2010 (the major conference on Language Resources and Evaluation) to conduct a survey on used LR&Ts within the work submitted for publication by the LREC authors. This is referred to as **LREC2010 Map** and aims to collect description of resources mentioned in the submitted paper (resources used, developed, being produced, etc.). Such Map will help draw a picture of existing resources (in addition to the major data centres catalogues) but also monitor the evolution of the field in more detail over the years (compared to what has been reported upon in D2.1).

A study for identification of the problems occurring in using language resource and language technology standards and to identify emerging needs for future LRT standards (D4.1). Here, the approach chosen is based on studying existing documents related to LRT standards, to study existing LRT standards, to evaluate current implementations of these standards, to ask implementers about the problems they have identified in using such standards and to ask all LRT stakeholders about missing standards or other problems they see in this respect.

The third survey started, which will lead to D5.1, is centred on an investigation of the available methodologies, campaigns and services for evaluating and validating LRs.

Finally, a *survey of automatic production methods for LRs (D6.1)*. This comprises a survey of the most demanded resources that are used as the core element of some NLP applications and an overview of the current techniques for automatic construction of LRs. The last academic proposals for automatic acquisition and production of LRs have been also reviewed, in order to confirm the interest that these topics raise in the community of researchers, and as the basic information to start a classification of methods and resources addressed.

Initiatives to supporting knowledge and availability of Language Resources and Technologies

In its first year of life, FLaReNet has already become the “pole of attraction” of the LR&Ts community and has played a central role in spreading awareness of the need, relevance and importance of Language Resources and Technologies.

The ground has been laid for activities such as to survey existing resources, inform about them, and enhance their visibility. In coordination with other relevant organisations, associations and initiatives, FLaReNet has prepared the conditions for creating consensus around interoperability issues, thus enhancing accessibility to



Language Resources and Tools and preparing the ground for an Open Resource Infrastructure.

The following actions have been started in order to broadly involve the community, and will be continued over the next year as the most important ones.

LREC2010 Map of Language Resources and Tools

FLaReNet is closely collaborating with LREC in the initiative of creating a “map” of language resources and tools. This represents an effort to actively involve a huge community. In conjunction with the next LREC2010 Conference, a dedicated interface is being set up for eliciting information about the language resources and tools that will be presented or represent the background of the scientific work submitted to the conference. This will allow deriving a “map” of the new, existing and most used language resources and tools. FLaReNet supports this initiative by acting in synergy with LREC and ELRA and will exploit the results in order to update its survey of language resources and tools.

A very important aspect will be that the LREC Map of LRs & LTs will be a “collective enterprise” of the LREC community, as a first step towards the creation of a very broad, community-built, Open Resource Infrastructure. Moreover, it will endow the LR&T players with a very important instrument to observe the evolution and use of LRs over time.

We have already received proposals for use of the tool by other organizations, journals and book series: we believe that its adoption can in the end have an influence over the way LRs are perceived and truly determine a change in the way LRs are cited, described and reported about.

Language Resources Wik(pedia)i

FLaReNet has decided to launch shortly a Wikipedia-like resource dedicated to Language Resources and Technologies. This is intended as an informative resource, to which all FLaReNet members and supporters will be asked to actively contribute. The action will provide a comprehensive community-built repository of information and will help to create consensus about topics and terminology.

Repository of data formats, annotation schemes and guidelines

Further to the recommendations issued from the Vienna Forum, FLaReNet promoted the creation of a shared repository with data formats, annotations schemes/tools and guidelines of most well-known language resources. These materials, to be made easily accessible by everyone, are seen as a first step to overcome current problems in the production of language resources, thus enhancing efficiency, quality and interoperability and promoting standardisation. FLaReNet started this activity in occasion of a two-day workshop with the PAROLE Association, whose members welcomed the initiative and agreed to participate.

Also metadata sets will be made available to the community. The area of metadata has already achieved a broad consensus and substantial work has been performed, so that it appears a mature area to start from. The establishment of well-designed and widely agreed metadata is a necessary requirement for any implementation of an open language infrastructure.



Preparatory actions for an Open Resource Infrastructure

Among the themes emerged from the Vienna Event, the establishment of an Open Resource Infrastructure (ORI) to allow easy sharing of language data and tools appeared as the common denominator. As a preparatory action towards such an infrastructure, FLaReNet started to investigate and elicit feedback about the conceptually basic building blocks of such an ORI, with the purpose of both making the community ready for this challenge and addressing some preliminary issues. A brainstorming exercise has been set up, inside the Steering Committee, in order to elicit main needs, justification, characteristics of an ORI, starting from concrete scenarios. Preliminary results of this exercise will be open to community discussion with the usual FLaReNet wiki facilities, in addition to serve as input for the ORI design.

Definition and implementation of communication and dissemination strategies

Communication and dissemination activities are central to FLaReNet.

Among the activities targeted at communication and dissemination we mention the following:

- preparation of the official project presentation of the project (D1.1), of a template for presentations and for deliverables, and other dissemination material such as flyers and posters;
- information, promotion and presentation of the Network through the World Wide Web;
- creation of a User Forum;
- production of advertising material for the Network;
- creation of leaflets for distribution at the major conferences and events of the sector;
- participation in conferences, exhibitions and major events related to the main topics of the project;
- publication of notes in electronic journals, bulletins and newsletters;
- publication of papers at some major conferences;
- organisation of co-located events in national and international conferences;
- organisation of thematic workshops and FLaReNet events;
- liaisons with research projects, associations, funding agencies, etc.;
- contacts with government representatives.

Details about the activities mentioned above can be found in Section 6.

Cooperation activities

A number of international cooperation initiatives were launched by the Coordinator and liaison channels were opened with relevant initiatives also outside the EU, in order to establish a kind of global coordination of the LR field.

We mention, in particular, Cyberling (<http://elanguage.net/cyberling09/>) in USA and Language Grid (<http://langrid.nict.go.jp/en/index.html>) in Japan.



Permanent connections have been established with major European and international players (such as AFNLP, SILT, ELRA, LDC, ISO) and others (e.g. COCODA, TEI, Oriental-COCODA, ALTA, ETSI) are planned for the next year in order to both elicit feedback and disseminate results and recommendations.

With some of these international initiatives/groups, such as LanguageGrid, AFNLP and LDC we started to establish agreements for cooperation on some issues.

Collaboration with projects and activities

Liaison channels have been created with relevant projects, the EU-ESFRI project [CLARIN](#) and the US-NSF [SILT](#) (Standards for Interoperability of Language Technologies) in particular. Establishing relationships with CLARIN is important because both projects address partially overlapping communities and topics. Good collaboration and coordination is important for optimising work on both sides in particular for those tasks that are shared by the two projects, for instance the analysis of existing LRs and related issues. Nevertheless, there are peculiarities that have to be maintained, as there are major differences between the two projects: where CLARIN is focussed on the specific target of the humanities and social sciences, FLaReNet more broadly addresses the Human Language Technology sector as a whole, including academic, industrial and governance players.

For a network on LRs with such a broad scope as FLaReNet it is crucial to relate also to projects, initiatives and funding bodies outside the EU, in order to establish a kind of global coordination of the LR field. The first point where to start such a wider international cooperation is the US SILT project (NSF funded) that goes shoulder to shoulder with FLaReNet thanks to their partially similar objectives.

Regular cooperation was established with the following new EC projects:

- Strong collaboration is going on with the new Network of Excellence, T4ME: FLaReNet is providing substantial input around topics of relevance for both projects and is preparing the path towards the creation of an Open Resource Infrastructure.
- Close connection will be held also with the new PANACEA STREP project. PANACEA's objective is the automatic acquisition of Language Resources and the project will be the means to explore the research directions individuated by FLaReNet and put some of its recommendations into practice.

6. Impact and Dissemination Activities

Dissemination and Networking activities are at the core of FLaReNet.

FLaReNet targets a broad spectrum of users, as reflected by the addressees of recommendations in the first *Blueprint of Actions and Infrastructures*. They are:

- HLT stakeholders at large, including producers, users and developers of Language Resources and Technologies, both academic and industrial (for instance, academic or industrial researchers, service and media providers, providers of translation and localization services, etc.);
- Funding agencies and policy-makers, at national and EC level.



Impact in its first year of life is measured by the broad coverage of European and International players involved in the Network, and also by the reputation that FLaReNet has already gained in the most important “circles”. As said above, given that FLaReNet covers also many infrastructural issues, on these in particular the Network must look for worldwide consensus and agreement.

In the second year impact will be seen also by the active involvement of the community in the new collaborative initiatives that have been (are being) recently designed and set up.

FLaReNet Annual Event

- [FLaReNet Launching Event](#) – “The European Language Resources and Technologies Forum: Shaping the Future of the Multilingual Digital Europe”, Vienna, Austria, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Austrian Academy of Sciences), 12-13/02/2009

Panels

- Panel “ALR and FLaReNet”, Singapore, 7/8/2009.

Co-organised events

- [FLaReNet-SILT Meeting](#), Pisa (Italy), Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale del CNR, 22/09/2008
- [CLARIN / FLaReNet Workshop on Usage Scenario](#), Athens, Greece, 4-5/4/2009
- [FLaReNet-SILT Meeting](#), Boulder, Colorado, USA, 30/5/2009
- FLaReNet-CLARIN Meeting for the development of an Action Plan on Standards, Berlin, Germany, 11/7/2009

Presentations

- Nicoletta Calzolari: [FLaReNet Presentation](#) at the *International Conference on Language and Speech Technology “LangTech 2008”*, Rome, Italy, 28-29/02/2008
- Nicoletta Calzolari and Joseph Mariani: [FLaReNet Presentation and mention in the concluding remarks](#) at the *LREC 2008 COCODA / WRITE Workshop*, Marrakech, Morocco, 01/06/2008
- Nicoletta Calzolari: [FLaReNet Invited Talk](#) at the *ULA Workshop 2008*, Boulder, Colorado, USA, 18-20/03/2008
- Nicoletta Calzolari: [FLaReNet Presentation](#) at *AI*IA 2008*, Cagliari, Italy, 11-13/09/2008
- Joseph Mariani: recommendation for cooperation with FLaReNet at the *NecTec International Advisory Committee* meeting, Bangkok, Thailand, 22-23/09/2008
- Joseph Mariani and Nicoletta Calzolari: recommendation for participation in FLaReNet at the Austrian Academy Corpus Advisory Committee meeting, Vienna, Austria, 17-18/11/2008
- Nicoletta Calzolari: [FLaReNet Presentation](#) at the *Giornata Informativa sui Programmi TAL inseriti nel 7° Programma Quadro*, Roma, Italy, 03/02/2009
- Nicoletta Calzolari: [FLaReNet invited talk](#) at [ALRS 2009](#), Phuket, Thailand, 20-21/03/2009
- Núria Bel: FLaReNet presentation, [Jornada del Processament Computacional del Català](#) – Barcelona, Spain, 26/03/2009



- Nicoletta Calzolari: “From PAROLE to FLaReNet and beyond”, [PAROLE Consortium Workshop "New Horizons for Linguistic Resources in a Global Context"](#), Barcelona, Spain, 07-08/07/2009
- Gerhard Budin: [FLaReNet presentation](#) at "LISA@Berkeley Globalization Conference: Language – Society – Technology", Berkeley, California, USA, 03-05/08/2009
- Nicoletta Calzolari: [representing FLaReNet](#) at the Panel on "Asian Language Resources and FLaReNet", [7th Workshop on Asian Language Resources](#) in conjunction with [ACL-IJCNLP 2009](#), Singapore, 07/08/2009

Publications

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- Calzolari, N. 2008. “Initiatives, Tendencies and Driving Forces for a “Lexical Web” as Part of a “Language Infrastructure””. In T. Tokunaga, A. Ortega (eds.), *Large-Scale Knowledge Resources. Series: Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, Vol. 4938/2008, Springer, pp. 90-105
- Mariani, J. “Les technologies de la langue en soutien au Multilinguisme”, *Proceedings Congrès Mondial sur la Traduction Spécialisée*, La Havane, 08-09/12/2008
- Monachini M., Soria C., Calzolari N. 2008. “The Lexical Grid: Lexical Resources in Language Infrastructures”. Language Grid Final Deliverable. ILC-ARC/STA-3. Pisa
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- Calzolari, N. 2009. ["FLaReNet: Shaping the Future of a Multilingual Digital Europe"](#), *ERCIM News 77* (April 2009)
- Calzolari, N., Soria, C. 2009 "The FLaReNet Thematic Network: a Global Forum for Cooperation", [7th Workshop on Asian Language Resources](#) in conjunction with [ACL-IJCNLP 2009](#) - Singapore (SG), 07/08/2009



- Ide, N., Pustejovsky, J., Calzolari, N., Soria, C. 2009. "The SILT and FLaReNet International Collaboration for Interoperability", [3rd Linguistic Annotation Workshop](#) in conjunction with [ACL-IJCNLP 2009](#) - Singapore (SG), 06/08/2009

Other dissemination activities

- Joseph Mariani: mention of FLaReNet at the "Etats-Généraux du Multilinguisme" organized by the French Presidency of the European Union, Paris, France, 26/09/2008
- Mention of FLaReNet to EC ICT event in Lyon and to the Language Technology (ICT 2008, 25-27/11/2008, Lyon, France, Europe's Information Society), connections with other initiatives, e.g. MEDAR
- Joseph Mariani: mention of FLaReNet at the Quaero CTC Workshop, Paris, France, 13/10/2008
- Joseph Mariani: mention of FLaReNet in his Invited Talk at the World Congress of Specialized Translation, La Habana, Cuba, 08-09/12/2008
- Joseph Mariani: mention of FLaReNet in his Invited Talk at the International Forum for Multilingualism, Bamako, Mali, 19-21/01/2009
- Jan Odijk: mention of FLaReNet at STEVIN Board Meeting, Brussels, Belgium, 26/01/2009
- Jan Odijk: mention of FLaReNet at STEVIN PC Meeting, Roosendaal, The Netherlands, 18/02/2009
- Khalid Choukri: mention of FLaReNet at the 2nd International Conference on Arabic Language Resources and Tools, Cairo, Egypt, 22-23/04/2009
- Nicoletta Calzolari: mention of FLaReNet at [Translingual Europe](#), Prague, Czech Republic, 13-14/05/2009
- Joseph Mariani: mention of FLaReNet in his invited talk at the "Forum des Droits sur l'Internet", Paris, France, 23/04/2009
- Nicoletta Calzolari: mention of FLaReNet at the Forum TAL, Rome, Italy, 18/05/2009
- Joseph Mariani: mention of FLaReNet in his invited talk at the DGA/DET/CEP (DoD) Seminar, Paris, France, 30/06-01/07/2009
- Joseph Mariani: mention of FLaReNet in his invited talk at the [PAROLE Consortium Workshop "New Horizons for Linguistic Resources in a Global Context"](#), Barcelona, Spain, 07-08/07/2009
- Monica Monachini: : mention of FLaReNet in her invited talk "A 15-year journey in Standards for Lexical Resources", [PAROLE Consortium Workshop "New Horizons for Linguistic Resources in a Global Context"](#), Barcelona, Spain, 07-08/07/2009
- Nicoletta Calzolari: mention of FLaReNet at [Cyberling 2009 Workshop](#), Berkeley, California, USA, 17-19/07/2009

Formal relationships

With international associations, consortia, bodies:

- Relations for cooperation with FLaReNet established by the Coordinator and many WP Leaders with various Associations (such as COCODA, Oriental



COCOSDA, LDC), at the LREC COCOSDA-WRITE Workshop (Marrakech, 01/06/2008)

- Relations established by the Coordinator with the international standardisation body ISO, represented by Key-Sun Choi, in a number of meetings
- Relations established by the Coordinator with the European Multimedia Forum, represented by Margaretha Mazura
- Relations established by WP7 Leader with the International Association of Specialized Translators (La Habana, 08-09/12/2008)
- Relations established by WP7 Leader with ACALAN (African Linguists Association), MAAYA (World Network for Linguistic Diversity), Union Latine, Funderes, Linguamón, Observatoire Européen du Plurilinguisme (OEP) and Ambassador W. Lichem at the International Forum on Multilingualism (Bamako, 19-21/01/2009)
- Relations established by the Coordinator with AFNLP (Asian Federation for Natural Language Processing), Japanese Language Grid, COCOSDA, (Vienna, 12-13/02/2009)
- First contacts by the Coordinator with the Indian TDIL initiative, and with Rajeev Sangal
- Relation established by Nicoletta Calzolari with ISO, ISO/TC 37/SC 4 Plenary Meeting and ISO/TC 37/SC 4/WG 2 Meetings - Boulder (Colorado, USA), 30/05/2009
- Relation established by Gerhard Budin with ISO, ISO/TC 37 Meeting Week & Conference - Bogotá (CO), 10-15/08/2009

With the EC and other projects:

- Establishment of formal cooperation with the NSF-SILT project, between the FLaReNet Coordinator and the SILT PIs
- Discussions on cooperation with FLaReNet by the Coordinator with some US Institutions and Universities, at the Boulder ULA (Unified Linguistic Annotation) Workshop, Boulder, Colorado, USA, March 2008
- Discussions on cooperation with FLaReNet by the Coordinator and many WP Leaders with many Institutions (from all over the world) and Associations (such as COCOSDA, Oriental COCOSDA, LDC), at the LREC COCOSDA-WRITE Workshop (Marrakech, May 2008)
- Discussions on cooperation with FLaReNet by the Coordinator with some Institutions and Universities (e.g. with Aravind Joshi for the Penn University and Gary Strong for the HLT Center of Excellence at Johns Hopkins, Robert Dale for the Macquarie University Sydney, Steven Bird, for the OLAC Initiative for sharing data), at the ACL Conference (Columbus, Ohio, June 2008)
- Relations established by the Coordinator and all the WP Leaders with the CLARIN infrastructure
- Recommendation for participation and cooperation in FLaReNet by the Coordinator to the Italian community at the AI*IA Information and Discussion Day about current European and Italian initiatives of interest to the NLP Group (Cagliari, 12/09/2008)



- Discussion on cooperation with FLaReNet by the Coordinator with the Japanese NEDO Project (Cagliari, September 2008)
- Mention of FLaReNet by WP7 Leader at the Quaero CTC Workshop (Paris, 13/10/2008)
- Recommendation for participation in FLaReNet by WP7 Leader and by the Coordinator at the Austrian Academy Corpus Advisory Committee meeting (Vienna, 17-18/11/2008)
- Monica Monachini, Mention of FLaReNet and of the first directions of actions towards standardization and interoperability, KYOTO Review Meeting - Luxembourg (LUX), 17/03/2009
- Nicoletta Calzolari, Valeria Quochi, CLARIN / FLaReNet Workshop on Usage Scenario, 4-5 April 2009, Athens
- Nicoletta Calzolari, FLARENet-SILT Meeting, Boulder, Colorado, 30 May 2009

With funding bodies and government institutions:

- Discussion on cooperation with NSF, represented by Tanya Korelsky, by the Coordinator during LREC 2008 (Marrakech, May 2008)
- Contact of the Coordinator with the President of CNIPA (Roma, February 2009)
- First contacts by the Coordinator with the Indian TDIL initiative, with Rajeev Sangal
- First contact of the Coordinator with the Directorate General for Interpretation and Conferences in the European Parliament
- Recommendation for cooperation with FLaReNet by WP7 Leader at the NecTec International Advisory Committee meeting (Bangkok, 22-23/09/2008)
- Establishment of permanent links of WP7 Leader with the Delegation for the French Language(s) (DGLF2)
- Participation of WP7 Leader in the French Ministry of Industry interministerial Working Group on Translation
- Informal contact of WP7 Leader with the Vice-President of the European Parliament and the Portuguese Minister of Culture (Etats Généraux du Multilinguisme, Paris, 26/09/2008)
- Joseph Mariani (WP7 leader) created relationships between FLaReNet and government institutions, and in particular:
 - with the EC Delegate for Multilingualism in Paris
 - with the French DoD
 - with the ANR head of ICT sector
 - with the Pilot Committee for Translation and with Pilot Committee for multilingualism in the Euro-mediterranean program at the French Ministry of Economy, Industry and Finance
 - with the DGLF2 (General Delegation for the French Language and for Languages spoken in France) of the Ministry of Culture, now Interministerial Delegation (DILF2)
- Meeting of Nicoletta Calzolari with the President of CNIPA during Forum Tal - Roma (IT), 18/05/2009



Endorsed events

- The 7th Workshop on Asian Language Resources (in conjunction with ACL-IJCNLP), Singapore, 6-7 August 2009
- The [4th Language & Technology Conference "Human Language Technologies as a Challenge for Computer Science and Linguistics"](#), Poznan, Poland, 6-8 November 2009
- The [1st Europe-Asia Spoken Dialogue Systems Technology Workshop](#) easDS, Kloster Irsee, Germany, 9-11 December 2009.

7. Further Information

Deliverables

- D1.1 Project Presentation
- D1.2 Project Web Site
- D1.3 Progress Report
- D1.4 Dissemination Plan
- D8.1 Action Plan
- D1.5 Evaluation Plan for the functioning of the Network
- D2.1a Up-to-date chart of LR and players and classification along different lines
- D1.6 Progress Report
- D1.7 Annual Report
- D4.1 Identification of problems in the use of LR standards and of standardisation needs
- D5.1 Existing evaluation and validation of LRs
- D6.1a Survey and assessment of methods for the automatic construction of LRs. Report on automatic acquisition, repurposing and innovative proposals for collaborative building of LRs
- D8.2a Blueprint of actions and infrastructures

Promotional and informative material

- [Leaflet](#)
- [FLaReNet Booklet](#)
- [Poster of the Vienna Launching Event](#)